

REMARKS

The application has been amended to place the application in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

Claims 1-53 were previously pending in the application. Claims 1, 3, 5 and 12-14 are canceled, leaving claims 2, 4, 6-11 and 15-53 for consideration.

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 22-53 are allowed and that claims 2, 4, 6-11 and 15-21 are allowable. In reliance thereon, claims 2, 6-8 and 15-21 are rewritten in independent form.

The rejection of claims 1, 3, 5 and 12-14 over KIMURA et al. 6,632,696 is believed moot in view of claims 1, 3, 5 and 12-14 being canceled.

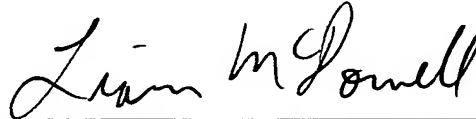
Since the claims remaining in the application are indicated as allowable, and since there are believed no outstanding formal matters, the application is believed in condition for allowance. An early notification of allowance is respectfully requested.

Please charge the fee of \$1,800 for the nine extra independent claims added herewith to Deposit Account No. 25-0120.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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